

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An administrative module for use in a digital switch, wherein the digital switch includes a plurality of blades coupled to a switching fabric, and wherein each blade outputs serial data streams with in-band control information in multiple stripes to said switching fabric, said administrative module comprising:

a level monitor that monitors the data received at a receiving blade;

and

a stripe synchronization error detector that detects a stripe synchronization error based on the amount of data monitored by said level monitor.

2. (Original) The administrative module of claim 1, wherein the data received at a receiving blade is sorted based on stripe and source information and stored in a set of data structures, and wherein:

said level monitor monitors the levels of data stored in each data structure receiving blade, and

said stripe synchronization error detector detects at least one of an overflow and underflow condition in the amount of data received on a respective stripe from a particular source.

3. (Original) The administrative module of claim 1, further comprising:
a flow controller that initiates a recovery routine to re-synchronize data across the stripes
in response to detection of a stripe synchronization error.

4. (Original) The administrative module of claim 3, wherein said recovery routine
includes throttling back the data flowing to one or more of said stripes.

5. (Original) The administrative module of claim 1, further comprising: a control
character presence tracker that identifies the presence of a K2 character during the recovery
routine.

6. (Original) The administrative module of claim 1, wherein said -stripe
synchronization error detector detects a stripe synchronization error in response to any one or
more of the following error conditions: an incoming link error, a cross-point failure, and an
outgoing link error.

7. (Original) A method for detecting stripe synchronization error in a network
switch, comprising:

- (a) sorting data received at a receiving slot based on stripe and source information;
- (b) storing the sorted data in a set of data structures;
- (c) monitoring the levels of data stored in each data structure; and
- (d) detecting at least one of an overflow and underflow condition in the amount of data
received on a respective stripe from a particular source.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the source information identifies a slot that sent the data across a switching fabric of the network switch.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the source information identifies a source packet processor that sent the data from a slot across a switching fabric of the network switch.

10. (Original) A method for maintaining synchronization of striped cell traffic, comprising the steps of:

- (a) sending a common character in striped cells in all lanes for a predetermined number of cycles;
- (b) evaluating the common control characters received at stripe receive synchronization queues; and
- (c) detecting when an in-synch condition is present that indicates the stripe receive synchronization queues have been cleared.

11. (Original) A method for managing out-of-synchronization traffic flow through a cross-point switch in a switching fabric, comprising:

- (a) monitoring the level of stripe receive synchronization queues; (b) determining whether an out-of-synchronization condition exists; and
- (c) initiating a re-synchronization routine when said out-of-synchronization condition exists.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising, after said initiating step (c), the steps of:

(d) sending a common character in striped cells in all lanes for a predetermined number of cycles;

(e) evaluating the common control characters received at stripe receive synchronization queues; and

(f) detecting when an in-synch condition is present that indicates the stripe receive synchronization queues have been cleared.

13-24 (canceled).